

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /068 R

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: LIMITATIONS ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER

REFS: A. NATO 6097; B. MBFR VIENNA 367; C. STATE 236950

1. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SUBCEILINGS ON NATO AIR
AND NATO GROUND FORCES REQUIRES ADDITIONAL STUDY AND SHOULD
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NOT BE PROPOSED AT THIS POINT. IN OUR VIEW, THE ISSUE

SHOULD NOT BE FORECLOSED UNTIL MORE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE CONTENT OF PHASE II. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR PHASE I OBJECTIVE OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY CAN BE VIEWED AS REQUIRING A SUBCEILING ON SOVIET GROUND FORCES, BUT BELIEVE THIS ISSUE CAN BE CONSIDERED LATER (REF C). (IN THE SAME WAY, OUR GENERAL OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL SUBCEILINGS IN PHASE II IS COMPATIBLE WITH SUBCEILINGS ON US AND SOVIET GROUND PERSONNEL.)

2. MOREOVER WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT AN OFFER OF INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING IS THE BEST WAY TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE ROLE OF AIR MANPOWER IN PHASE II, IN ORDER TO AVOID SUGGESTING A SUBCEILING ON NATO AIR PERSONNEL IN PHASE II AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMON CEILING PROPOSAL. (WE COMMENT ON THESE AND RELATED ISSUES SEPTEL, IN RESPONSE TO MBFR VIENNA 366.)

3. WE THEREFORE CANNOT ACCEPT FRG TEXT (PARAS 4-6, REF A) BECAUSE ITS NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT CREATES AN EXPLICIT SUBCEILING ON AIR PERSONNEL, BECAUSE IT EXTENDS THAT SUBCEILING TO PHASE II, AND BECAUSE IT KEEPS THE AIR MANPOWER LIMITATION SEPARATE FROM COMMON CEILING. WE BELIEVE IT IS UNDESIRABLE TO DECIDE SUBCEILING ISSUE NOW, AND WISH TO USE AIR MANPOWER AS LEVERAGE TOWARDS COMMON CEILING OBJECTIVE. AS FOR THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF FRG TEXT (AS INTERPRETED IN PARA 7, REF B) WHILE AN EXTENDED NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT CLEARLY DOES NOT EXHAUST THE ISSUE OF CIRCUMVENTION OF GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, IT WOULD PREVENT ONE PARTICULAR TYPE OF CIRCUMVENTION (I.E., COMPENSATING FOR REDUCTIONS BY AN UNLIMITED INCREASE IN AIR PERSONNEL).

4. CORE OF DISAGREEMENT APPEARS TO CENTER ON SUBCEILING ISSUE. IF THIS CAN BE RESOLVED, AGREEMENT ON A TEXT MAY BE RELATIVELY EASY. IF NOT WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION VIEWS ON BASIS OF FRG CONCERNS AND HOW WE MIGHT PROCEED. DELEGATION AND BONN MAY ALSO WISH TO COMMENT. INGERSOLL

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